management and energy conservation measures. According to information received from Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, DESU has also made a few alternative proposals, of a general character, for privatisation of power distribution in Delhi which are at a preliminary stage of examination by the Government of Delhi

Member of Parliament Local Areas Development Scheme

*554. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds allocated under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme in the country during 1993-94 to 1995-96 were fully utilised;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated during each of the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 alongwith the details of percentage of funds spent during each year of the said period;

(c) whether reasons have been ascertained for delay in the implementation of the scheme approved by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of suggestions given for removing these obstacles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The details of the funds allotted during each of the last three years is given below :—

Year	Funds released by Govt. of India (Rs. Crores)
1993-1994	37.8
1994-1995	771.0
1995-1996	764.0

As the funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable, an M.P. can utilise the funds released in a year, during the subsequent years but within the term of the Lok Sabha or the term of Rajya Sabha membership. The percentage of expenditure corresponding to each year release is, therefore, not available. However, of the total funds released by the Govt. of India in these three years, (Rs. 800.7 Crore) 51% have been spent.

(c) and (d) The expenditure incurred so far under the scheme falls short of the actual release, indicating slow progress. Some of the main reasons for this are the following :—

(i) Late release of funds in earlier years.

(ii) Revision of guidelines in December, 1994.

(iii) Application of model Code of Conduct of the Election Commission in certain States like Bihar in December, 1994.

(iv) Late receipt of recommendations/non-receipt of recommendations from the MPs concerned in certain cases.

(v) Late intimation/non-intimation about the choice of districts by some Rajya Sabha MPs.

(vi) The Scheme being new, the District Collectors took some time to understand the full implications of the Scheme.

However, the implementation of the scheme has gained momentum during 1995-96.

Suggestions for improvements in the scheme as and when received are considered and if necessary instructions, clarifications are issued with a view to accelerating the pace of implementation of the scheme.

Deep Sea Fishing—Legal Opinion

*555. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the 'Hindu' dated 13 August, 1996 under the caption "Government seeks legal opinion on deep sea fishing;"

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the present status of the proposal;

(d) whether the Government will formulate a comprehensive fisheries policy that will ensure sustainable fisheries, survival of traditional fishing communities and development of indigenous entrepreneurial skills; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Review Committee on deep sea fishing policy constituted by this Ministry had submitted its report on 8th Feb., 1996. The recommendations of the committee were examined in consultation with other Ministries/ departments including Ministry of Law (Deptt. of Legal